

TL4T

Newsletter

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P. 3	ALL LEARNERS App Lists & Resources	P. 5	MIDDLE SCHOOL Google Drive Graphic Library	P. 4	ACTIVINSPIRE Page Extender, & Drag & Drop
P. 2	ELEMENTARY Cube Creator	P. 5	HIGH SCHOOL ActivExpressions	P. 4	IPODS BrainPOP, Physical Science, Mobile Mouse

6 Great Photo Editing Tools: Part 1

BigHugeLabs, FotoFlexer, & Photoshop Express Editor

Images & photos can be used for more than a pretty decoration. For students who are right brain thinkers, they have an easier time learning through visuals. Images also have a direct effect on long-term memory. So here are some ideas for enhancing your lessons with images,

- ❑ Set a mood at the beginning of a lesson
- ❑ Inspire discussion of a topic
- ❑ Illustrate concepts & to show examples
- ❑ Extend language & common terms using subject-specific terminology
- ❑ Stimulate students writing & enhancing creative & language skills
- ❑ Encourage critical thinking skills

Interested? Here are 3 tools that are easy & fun to use. (3 different ones will be featured next month

in Part 2.)



BigHugeLabs – Besides doing the basic effects, this site can turn your photos into motivators, magazine covers, movie posters, & my favorite – trading cards: www.bighugelabs.com



FotoFlexer – There are a lot of advance features from this free photo editor – effects, decorate, add animations, beautify, distort, adding layers, & getting geeked out with smart cutouts: fotoflexer.com



Photoshop Express Editor – A free web-based Photoshop that may not have a huge amount of features, but pictures look great when they are finished, especially with color pop: phtshp.us/T7hgzx

Cube Creator

<http://bit.ly/UzJRge>



The International Reading Association's website, ReadWriteThink (www.readwritethink.org) has a lot of great tools to use with your students. One of them is the Cube Creator, which provides templates that break up the writing process into 6 parts. There are 4 templates for writing,

- ❑ **Bio Cube** – develop an outline of a person through describing a person's significance, background, & personality
- ❑ **Mystery Cube** – sort out the clues through describing the setting, clues, crime/mystery, victim, detective, & solution
- ❑ **Story Cube** – summarize key elements in a story including character, setting, conflict, resolution, & theme
- ❑ **Create-Your-Own Cube** – generate own questions or topics & share with students for them to enter their own responses

W2C0

2 EDU YouTube Channels

Crash Course

www.youtube.com/crashcourse

Crash Course is an educational YouTube channel by John & Hank Green over original topics in World History & Biology, & new added videos over English Literature & Ecology. Their videos are fast pace, lasting about 10-12 minutes. The videos are entertaining overviews that may require you to pause the videos to discuss with your students, or perhaps use a backchannel site like todaysmeet.com. The videos are aimed towards a high school audience, but may work for the upper middle school years.



C.G.P. Grey Explains

www.youtube.com/CGPGrey

C.G.P. Grey produces amusing & interesting educational videos on YouTube. Some of his most well known videos are debunking popular misconceptions. His videos can easily fit under science & social studies with videos like, *Can Texas Secede from the Union?*, *What if the Electoral College is Tied?*, *Is Pluto a Planet?*, & *What are Continents?* It is recommended that these are good from middle & high school students, but it is advise to watch the video first to see if it would fit with your class.



Noodle Words an App for iOS Devices

Guest Teacher Post – Dee Franks, Speech Pathologist



Noodle Words is a highly interactive app to use with kids who may not understand common action words. The current version contains 18 words that SPIN, DANCE, STRETCH etc. There are (2) characters that accompany each word who also perform additional “tricks” that further interpret the verb being displayed. This format/medium is especially functional for children with autism as they typically struggle to understand action words. The app has sound & great graphic displays so is perfect for emerging or non-readers.

ALL Learners

App Lists & Resources

Early Learners

Do you have children/grandchildren/students who have access to an iphone or ipod touch (or an Android phone)? Perhaps your son/daughter is always wanting to play “games” on your phone while you are in the car or waiting in line at the supermarket? Here are some ideas for good, educational apps for the iphone/ipod touch/android.

- ❑ *Appolicious* – this website lists suggestions for iPhone & iPad apps, as well as ANDROID apps: bit.ly/XG01oV
- ❑ *The Online Mom* – 10 iPhone apps for early childhood educators: bit.ly/VPo5nP
- ❑ *Best Apps for Kids* – this one is nice because they have reviews of some of the apps as well: bit.ly/UAiO4e

SPED Learners

- ❑ *Edudemic* – The 200 Best Special Education Apps: bit.ly/TvYB0n
- ❑ *Apps For Children with Special Needs* – produces videos that demonstrate how to use recommended apps: a4cwsn.com
- ❑ *Educational Technology & Mobile Learning* – here’s a blog that also shares a list of the “Top 200 Special Education Apps”: bit.ly/RCnvOY
- ❑ *Geek SLP* – this website is directed to SLP’s, but has some good technological information that would be beneficial for anyone working with students with special needs: www.geekslp.com



ActivInspire

Page Extender & Drag & Drop

Page Extender

Need more space on your page...go to **View** to open the **Page Extender** to add more room to your page. You can move the Page Extender button around on your page for easy access. It only adds extra space to your current page.



Drag & Drop Objects

To drag & drop text or an image into your flipchart: **(1)** Size the ActivInspire & the other document's window so that you can see both of them on your desktop. **(2)** Use your cursor to select the text or image to be copied. Drag the text or object onto the flipchart page. **(3)** When the cursor changes to an arrow with a plus sign, drop it. Your text or image will be added to your flipchart.

iPod Apps

BrainPOP, Physical Science, & Mobile Mouse



Elementary

BrainPOP Featured Movie

Learn something new everyday with the educational award-winning website, BrainPOP using their Featured Movie app. This free app showcases a different animated movie everyday with an interactive quiz to test your students' knowledge. Also available from BrainPOP – *BrainPOP Jr. Movie of the Week* (for K-3) & *Película del Día de BrainPOP* (*BrainPOP Movie Day*)

students, letting them study key science vocabulary terms in a fun & unique way. There are several types of games for kids to use to learn their vocabulary. 7th & 8th grade science kids are using it to practice for the vocabulary used in the NESA science tests.



Middle School

Language Central for Science Physical Science Edition

A wonderful free app that crosses over many different grade levels & will engage



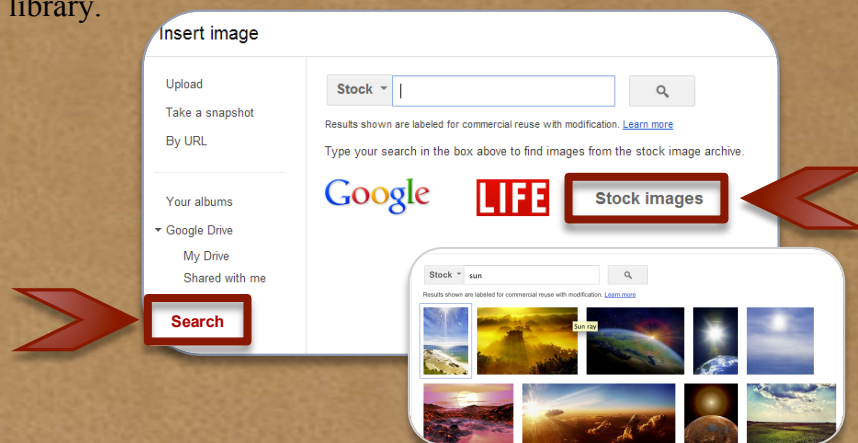
High School

Mobile Mouse

Transform your iPod, iPhone, &/or iPad into a remote mouse for your computer & Promethean Board. Control your desktop from across the room. The free app is good & a great way to give it a try. If you like it you can always upgrade it for the Pro version. Just remember to email the Tech Department so that they can install the accompanying software to your computer.

Google Drive Graphic Library

Google Drive has more than 5,000 images of nature, weather, animals, sports, food, education, technology, music & 8 other categories. To access these graphics, open a Google document or presentation, select **Images** from the **Insert** menu. Then select the **Search** option & **Stock Images** to access Google's graphic library.



ActivExpressions for Opening Activities

Guest Teacher Post – Laura Phillips, PHS English & Literature

When my class is working on a specific unit (poetry, fiction, etc.), I like to use the ActivExpressions as my opening activity. On a flip chart, go to **Insert**, then **Questions**. Once there, you can write multiple choice & true/false questions, ask the students put items in order, or type in a text or numeric answer. There are also a couple other options for the math-type people.



What I like to do is have the questions come up in random order. This ensures that the students don't simply memorize the answers in order, nor can they peek at what their neighbor is doing. On your computer screen, you can monitor student progress & see how many questions students answered correctly, & you can also see which answers he or she chose when they missed a question. Currently, I have given the poetry review for seven days. Most students see their scores increase significantly in just three days, & the constant repetition of material seems to improve the tests scores as well.

You may also choose to let the student see the correct answer when he or she has missed a question (I choose not to do this; I'd rather they looked it up in their notes). One last fun thing that you can do is choose what the device will say after a question has been answered. At the moment, a correct answer in my class gets a reply of "Glitter!" & a wrong answer gets "mud". I like to change them every few days. Mainly because I can. I highly recommend the ActivExpressions.